in fictitious names, do come to notice of the Ministry of Railways. As a result of checks conducted by the zonal railways, the number of touts apprehended during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of touts apprehended
2007-08	2562
2008-09	2521
2009-10	1483
(upto October,09)	

Railway staff, if found conniving with touts are taken up stringently under the Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, new trains and special trains are run and the carrying capacity of the existing trains augmented. Upto September 2009, 22748 special trains were run as compared to 17290 special trains in the same period of the previous year, an increase of about 31%. Further, 32 new trains have been introduced and 263 coaches on 114 pairs of trains have been augmented upto September 2009. Besides, regular preventive checks are conducted in and around railway reservation offices to curb the illegal activities of touts and other anti-social elements. In addition, checks are also conducted in trains to apprehend cases of passengers travelling on transfer of tickets and such passengers are charged as without ticket. The checks are intensified during peak rush and festival periods. Touts so apprehended are prosecuted under the provision of the law. In addition, travelling public is educated through various media to desist purchasing tickets from unauthorized people. To facilitate easier booking of accommodation, reservation can now be done through internet, e-ticketing, post offices, petrol pumps, etc.

Setting up of Utra Mega Steel Projects

*323. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering the concept of promoting ultra mega steel projects on the lines of ultra mega power projects to ensure adequate steel capacity addition;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when a decision on the setting up of ultra mega steel projects is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Representations from Honb'le Shri C. Ramchandriah, MP, Rajya Sabha and Shri Dhram Pal Sabharwal, MP, Rajya Sabha as well as some of the steel companies have been received in the Ministry of Steel regarding Ultra Mega Steel Project, Although, there is no concept of Ultra Mega Steel Projects in the National Steel

Policy 2005, the policy aims at an alround growth of the Indian Steel Sector, irrespective of the production capacity of individual steel units.

(c) Steel being a deregulated sector, the various aspects of Ultra Mega Steel Project needs to be examined within the existing policy and legal frameworks. A decision in this regard will be taken after obtaining the views of the different stakeholders.

Development of Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor

*325. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from the State Government of Gujarat regarding rail development for various infrastructure linkages for overall development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) along with the proposed Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), a Government of Gujarat entity, had forwarded a proposal suggesting various infrastructure linkages including rail connectivity for DMIC project in the State of Gujarat.

The proposal has been forwarded to DMIC Development Corporation (DMICDC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up under Ministry of Commerce and Industry for taking up further study and to integrate this with their master plan.

Loan recovery by Co-operative banks

*329. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan granted by Cooperative Banks during 2008 for farming and other allied activities;

(b) whether loan recoveries are being made according to mutually agreed time schedules;

(c) the outstanding recovery amount till 31st of December, 2008, State-wise, and the percentage of non-recovered loans; and

(d) the methods being adopted by Co-operative Banks when persistently the loans are repaid by rural folk forming bulk of farming community?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), the total loan granted by cooperative banks for farming and other allied activities during 2007-08 was Rs.48258.19 crore.